

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KNABE

July 24, 2012

The Los Angeles County Sheriff and the Department of Mental Health provide services to inmates in County jails who suffer with serious mental illness. Among treatment options for these individuals is the use of psychiatric medications which are often needed to help stabilize persons who have a serious mental illness and who may be a danger to themselves or others. When these individuals become severely impaired, there are times when it may be in the best interest of the person that psychiatric medications be involuntarily administered. However, under current law, approval to involuntarily administer needed medications to inmates in County jails is subject to a lengthy court approval process which may result in treatment delays and the deterioration of an inmate's condition. Further, current law limits the time period during which psychiatric medications may be involuntarily administered.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
RIDLEY- THOMAS	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

AB 1114 (Chapter 665, Statutes of 2011) by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal provided a new procedure under which the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may obtain an order from an Administrative Law Judge to involuntarily administer psychiatric medications to mentally ill inmates in State prisons. AB 1114 streamlined the process and ensures that State prison inmates receive informed consent and are entitled to all due process prior to the involuntary administration of psychiatric medications.

AB 1907, also by Assembly Member Lowenthal, would extend the provisions of AB 1114 to inmates in County jails. AB 1907 would shorten the timeframe for jail inmates to receive long-term medication to improve their mental health, and ensure that treatment is consistent with an inmate's due process rights, including the right to counsel and the evidentiary standard of clear and convincing evidence. AB 1907 would provide the Sheriff and the Department of Mental Health with a valuable tool to ensure that inmates in County jails receive vital mental health treatment to stabilize their condition.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the County's Sacramento Legislative advocates to support AB 1907.